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THIS AND THAT.

—Two English bacteriologists conclude that an average of 1,500 microbes must be inhaled into the nose every hour, while in London the number must often reach 14,000. The organisms are caught by the nose and pass to the digestive organs, which in health destroy them.

—Brent house, at Brentford, England, where Neil Gwynne lived, caught fire recently. The billiard room was burned, but the broad staircase up which Charles II. is said to have ridden his charger was untouched. The house is used now by a conservative club.

—Beneath the portico of the First Congregational Unitarian church at Quincy, Mass., in the same vault which his filial affection built for his parents, in a light casket and of similarly hewn stone, now repose the remains of ex-President John Quincy Adams, together with those of his wife.

—France's funded debt, the interest on which the government proposes to tax, amounted at the end of 1895 to 25,930,272,514 francs, about \$5,200,000,000. Besides these are the floating debt, treasury notes and other obligations. The interest charges are 811,856,654 francs, or 21.17 francs per head of the population, yearly.

—The reason that stars twinkle while planets do not (to any great degree) is that the stars are so far away from us that they appear as mere points of light, whereas the planets are near enough to show a measurable disc. Twinkling is caused by irregular refraction and interference of the light of the stars after it reaches our atmosphere.

—While Henry Kinder, a farmer at Elwood, Ind., was standing in his doorway watching a storm lightning struck the screen door and passed through catching him just below the hips and running down his legs to the floor. His pants and shoes were torn off and he was rendered unconscious. Although badly shocked, he is recovering.

—The idea of numbering the heavenly bodies, whether planets, satellites or stars of the smallest size, was formal at the astronomical congress in 1897, and already 189 photographs have been taken with a view to the publication of an international catalogue. Some of these photographs contain only a dozen stars, while others are crowded even to the number of 1,899. It is expected that the catalogue will enumerate about 3,600,000 stars.

A LONG SLIDE.

Passengers Shot Down a Fifty-Mile Toboggan.

A system of rapid transit transportation is in use in California, which, for cheapness of operating expense, is probably the lowest in the country, despite the fact that the cost of construction was very high. A lumber company in Fresno county, Cal., has built a lumber flume 52 miles long, which in places has a grade of 23 per cent, and which crosses the King river on a suspension bridge 451 feet long. This bridge is built of Roebeling cables, something on the plan of the great suspension bridges across the Niagara gorge. The flume is V-shaped, and, strange to say, in addition to carrying lumber, is utilized for the transportation of passengers—one way—for, like the road to ruin in old temperance books, the line only runs one way, and that down. The boat in which the passengers travel, or perhaps it would be better to say shoot, is a V-shaped box about 16 feet long, and which is roughly knocked together with boards, since it is "good for one trip only." The front end of the strange craft is left off, as the velocity of the water is so great; despite the speed of the boat, it does not run into it. Preparatory to the trip a plank is placed along the bottom, on which the passenger rests his feet while sitting single file on cross seats. When all is ready the spikes by which the boat is held while loading is pulled out, and away it goes on its 52-mile journey, in some cases attaining the terrific velocity of 70 miles an hour.

—Law and physic are good remedies, but recreations, but ruinous habits.—Quarles.

MANNERS AND FASHIONS.

Philosophy of the Constant Cry of Decadence.

The fact remains that mankind has always believed its manners to be decaying, and this fact has in some way or other got to be accounted for. Unless there was some reason for it, men in every age and in every place would not have thought the same thought and made the same complaint. When people have been saying the same thing, from China to Peru, from India to the Nile, from Norway to Naples, over since the dawn of history, there must be something in it. The notion of a universal and immemorial, and yet wholly fortuitous and gratuitous, piece of blague is absurd. Where, then, is the necessary substantial resting-place for the belief that our manners are disappearing? We believe that it is to be found in the fact that manners change like the fashions—are, in fact, as much the sport of fashion as bonnets, skirts, mantles or collars.

But it is notorious that oldish people cannot keep up with the fashions. One of the first signs of that mental induration which comes to almost all men and women some time after 40, is that they become unable to see that the new style of collar or way of doing the hair is an improvement. There is no more certain sign that a person is aging than his or her declarations that the new fashions are hideous and disgusting. But mark the declarations that our manners are disappearing never come from the young, but always from persons past 40. The truth is, their minds have become indurated. They have become incapable of following the fashions in manners. But the fashions in manners are not influenced by these expressions of blind indignation.

Driven on by that necessity for evolution and change which we cannot ignore though we cannot explain, our manners—i. e., our codes of social behavior—are in a perpetual state of flux. There is no sudden revolution, of course, but in ten years' time there has been sufficient alteration to make the way we flirt now, or the way we talk to the ladies in the drawing-room after dinner, seem strange and outrageously indecorous to the man who has stood still and not moved with the times.

After all, manners are only conventions—rules as to the pitch of the voice, the turn of the head, the form of words to be used. But it is the nature of conventions to seem good only to those who know them and can appreciate their exact value. An unsympathetic convention is necessarily a monstrosity. If the recognized convention of the generation is for a man who wishes to be polite to a girl at a ball to say: "You might give us a dance," then there is no real decay of manners in the use of the phrase. It sounds indeed to the generation who have developed it and use it the only really polite thing to say, and far better manners, "in the true sense," than the ridiculously formal and dancing-mastery "May I have the honor of a dance?" They who use it are, in fact, not the least conscious of any decay of manners. Men accustomed to the "May I have the honor?" formula are, however, utterly shocked by the "You might give us a dance" convention, and the moment when they begin to realize its development they declare that the old courtesy, etc., has died out. It is the same with a hundred other little matters of form. A new fashion in giving an arm or holding open, or even not holding open, a door seems boorish to the older generation who knew the proper way of doing the thing in 1860, and since then have used no other.—London Spectator.

OTHERS MORE FORTUNATE.

Bad Days for English Farmers and Solicitors.

The chief point of interest in the annual bankruptcy returns published recently is that, while there is a gradual diminution in the numbers and liabilities of bankrupts in general, in two categories they have increased. That farmers should have failed to the extent of three-quarters of a million is only what might be expected in the present collapse of wheat-growing as a business—indeed, we fear that the number of official bankruptcies is small in proportion to the number of farmers who have gone under and disappeared without that formality—but some surprise is expressed at the number of solicitors who figure in Mr. Smith's list, and the amount of their liabilities. The truth is that, although they have stood out longer than the barristers, the solicitors have been very hard hit by the decline in quantity and quality of legal business, and a great many of them have become little more than financial agents, with the natural consequence that a certain proportion have yielded to the temptation of speculating with their clients' money. The proportion is a small one, let us hope; but it is not pleasant to read of the £273,000 that has been lost in this way since last year.—London Saturday Review.

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

A Wonderful Faculty Possessed by the American Aborigines.

In describing an object, an Indian has the wonderful faculty of picking out its most distinguishing characteristic at once. I have repeatedly seen Indians come into a military post to see officers. Without knowing the particular officer's name, and without being able to pronounce it intelligibly if it were known, I have never seen an instance where, by a few signs, the Indian has not been at once directed to the person whom he wished to see. A stout officer will be described, beyond the possibility of any doubt when the Indian half-circles his extended hands over the region of his stomach. If the officer wears glasses, the Indian will look through the two circles made by his thumbs and first fingers; if the officer is bald, the Indian will raise his own long tresses in one hand and draw the forefinger of his other hand across the top of his head as though he were going through the pleasant operation of lifting a scalp. An officer who varied the monotony of frontier life by very steady and hard drinking I once saw an Indian describe by pointing to the head and then waving his hand in small circles. There was no mistaking that sign—the Indian wanted the officer whose brain was in a whirl. And although utterly devoid of a sense of humor, an Indian is always laughingly good natured in thus pointing out anyone's distinguishing characteristic or eccentricity.

The expression of words by means of the sign language may be divided into the following classes: Imitating actions or attributes; pointing to objects; representing shapes, sizes, uses or habits; simulating emotions; employing metaphors consistent with Indian conception, and making empirical signs, although if the development of signs of this last class could be traced back I am sure they would resolve themselves into some one of the other classes.—William H. Wassell, in Chautauquan.

SNAKE BITES.

Made Harmless by a System of Inoculation.

The results of the long series of experimental observations upon snake bites which Prof. Fraser, the great Indian authority, has been conducting, go to show, says the Pall Mall Gazette, that we are within measurable distance of a time when the thanatophidian will not merely cease to justify its name, but when its bite will become one of the luxuries of life.

Perhaps no man has used up more watch glasses and brown paper in these experiments than Prof. Fraser, so that there is not likely to be any mistake about it. Any number of death dealers have had the papered watch glass presented to their fangs. Every one of these receptacles has had its fill of the "cloudy, watery fluid, somewhat viscid," which, scientifically evaporated, has produced its modicum of "brittle, yellowish deposit." Moistened with a little water or glycerine, when required for use, this deposit, "unadulterated in character," has been introduced into the system of the lower animals, from the frog to the horse, and now the horse has been made as immune to snake poison as Roux's horse is to diphtheria.

The immunity of the human animal from the effects of snake poison thus seems assured. But this is not all. A lady has been discovered at Lahore who, having made herself immune without the luxury of a snake bite once a month. As a delight it seems to beat morphia injections out of sight, and to be attended, in the immune person, with directly beneficial consequences to general health besides. The "snake habit" seems destined to oust the other altogether.

The Mechanical Arts.

There are in the United States, it is stated, 200,000 machinists, 10,000 toolmakers, 25,000 boilermakers, 10,000 patternmakers, 750,000 carpenters and joiners, 200,000 masons and bricklayers, 50,000 contractors and builders, 50,000 plumbers, gas and steam fitters, 150,000 stationary engineers and firemen, 100,000 locomotive engineers and firemen, 50,000 electric railway and light employees, 50,000 cabinetmakers, carvers and woodworkers, 50,000 civil, mechanical, electrical and mining engineers.

A Norwegian Novelist.

Jonas Lie, the Norwegian novelist, was born at Elker, Norway, in 1833. His work in fiction has become widely known and admired of late. Among his own countrymen his novels have long been extremely popular. Lie has lived much in Paris, and his work shows the influence that Zola has exercised over the Norwegian.

Parisian Women in Business.

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|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lv. Louisville | 6:30 p.m. | 7:45 a.m. |
| West Point | 7:20 p.m. | 8:40 a.m. |
| Brandenburg | 7:55 p.m. | 9:14 a.m. |
| Irrington | 8:20 p.m. | 9:40 a.m. |
| Stephensport | 8:58 p.m. | 10:18 a.m. |
| Cloverport | 9:18 p.m. | 10:38 a.m. |
| Hawesville | 9:44 p.m. | 11:08 a.m. |
| Lewisport | 10:08 p.m. | 11:28 a.m. |
| Owensboro | 10:48 p.m. | 12:07 p.m. |
| Spotsville | 11:31 p.m. | 12:41 p.m. |
| Ar. Henderson | 11:55 p.m. | 1:15 p.m. |

| EAST BOUND | No. 62. Daily. | No. 64. Daily. |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lv. Henderson | 7:30 a.m. | 3:55 p.m. |
| Spotsville | 7:45 a.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| Owensboro | 8:27 a.m. | 3:25 p.m. |
| Lewisport | 9:07 a.m. | 4:42 p.m. |
| Hawesville | 9:30 a.m. | 4:53 p.m. |
| Cloverport | 9:57 a.m. | 5:17 p.m. |
| Stephensport | 10:18 a.m. | 5:35 p.m. |
| Irrington | 11:00 a.m. | 6:10 p.m. |
| Brandenburg | 11:28 a.m. | 6:39 p.m. |
| West Point | 12:05 p.m. | 7:10 p.m. |
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